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OVERTON, JOHN
(1766-1833)
PAPERS
1797-1833

(THS Collection)

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INTRODUCTION

These papers are primarily the incoming correspondence of John Overton (1766-1833), lawyer, planter and justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court of Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee.

The materials in this collection measure .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the John Overton Collection may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection of approximately seventy-three items consists primarily of incoming correspondence of John Overton (1766-1833), lawyer, planter and justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court of Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee. Two letters are addressed to Samuel Overton (1768-1832), brother of John Overton and resident of Louisa County, Virginia.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

John Overton

- 1766 April 9, born in Louisa County, Virginia, son of James and Mary Waller Overton
- Taught school for several years
- 1787 Emigrated to Kentucky for the purpose of studying law
- 1789 Moved to Nashville to practice law where he met and became a close friend of Andrew Jackson
- 1790 Became supervisor of Federal excise in Southwest Territory
- 1794 Became a land speculator and with Jackson purchased the Rice tract upon which the town of Memphis was founded
- 1804-1810 Succeeded Jackson upon the bench of the Superior Court of Tennessee
- 1811-1816 Appointed a member of the Supreme Court of the State to succeed George Campbell which he held for five years
- 1813-1817 Published two volumes of Tennessee Reports which cover cases tried before the Court from 1791-1816
- 1794-1817 Became recognized authority on all matters relating to land legislation
- 1821 Joined with William B. Lewis and John H. Eaton to form an informal committee of close personal friends for the advancement of Jackson's candidacy for the presidency
- Married Mary McDonnell (White) May, daughter of General James White and sister of Hugh Lawson White
- 1833 April 17, died in Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

John Overton Correspondence

1. Bedford and MacKey, 1823-1824
2. Cannon, Newton, 1815
3. McAlister, John, 1821
4. McClanahan, Mathew, 1823
5. McClung, Charles, 1820-1822, and James W. McClung, 1819
6. McClung, Mathew, 1820
7. McGavock, R[andall], 1818
8. McGavock, Flower, 1833
9. McIver, John, 1823
10. McLemore, John C., 1820-1823
11. McMillan, Amos, 1823
12. McMinn, Jos., 1818
13. Maclin, Wm., 1798-1799
14. Madison, Gabriel, 1797 and Thomas P. Murrey, 1797
15. Marsh, Samuel, 1807
16. Maury, Abram, 1818-1823
17. Maxwell, George, 1818 and Solomon P. Maxwell, 1822
18. Miller, Pleasant M., 1805-1833
19. Miller, William, 1803
20. Minor, Dabney, 1818
21. Minor, Fanny, 1818-1820
22. Minor, Henry, 1818-1823
23. Minor, W.T.
24. Morris, Henry, 1801 and Col. R. Morris, 1798-1819
25. Murphy, A.D., 1823
26. Mynatt, William C., 1818
27. Winchester, M.B., 1829
28. Maury, Fontaine, 1802 and Nicholas Meriwether, 1800, to Samuel Overton
29. Court Record – Bill of Revivor – Woodfolk v. Blount, Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals, Third Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, June Term, 1815
30. Promissory Note – John Overton to Th. Edmiston, August 31, 1831

NAME INDEX

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- McClung, Charles (4), 1820-1822, re: power of attorney for purchase and sale of land and other business dealings; copy of letter written to John C. McLemore; ill health of James White and Colonel Ramsey; land of Colonel Henley in name of McMillin; mercantile business; describes location of best cotton lands, 1-5
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- McClung, Mathew, 1820, re: issuance of enclosed land warrant, 1-6
- McGavock, R[andall], re: description of land in Missouri and in town of Franklin, 1-7
- McGregor, Flower, 1833, re: survey of parcel of land, 1-8
- McIver, John C., 1823, re: deed from Donelson as part of Watson's Estate probably lost when James Watson's papers destroyed in Washington in 1814, 1-9
- McLemore, John C. (7), 1820-1823, re: land transactions and warrants; deposition taken by Tatum; hardships undertaken by McPeak and Mitchell to obtain General Winchester's horse; controversy over dead; best route to Memphis; advertisement, 1-10
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